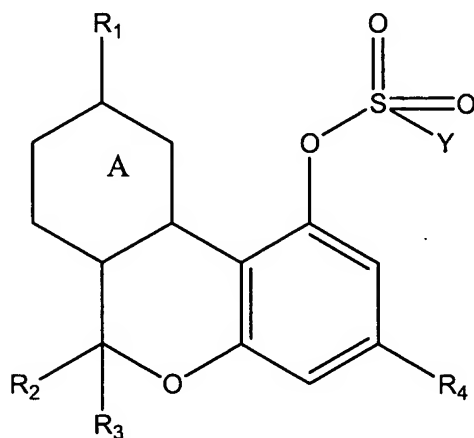


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended). Cannabinoid esters as represented by the formula comprising:



Formula A

wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are H or an alkyl;

A is a saturated alkane, alkene, diene or aromatic ring; and

Y is an aryl selected from the group consisting of benzene, alkyl substituted benzene, halogen substituted benzene and alkyloxy substituted benzene.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended). A process for the preparation of cannabinoid aryl sulfonates comprising:

reacting at least one cannabinoid with at least one aryl sulfonyl halide in the presence of at least one base and a solvent.

4. (Original). The process according to Claim 3, wherein the cannabinoid is a naturally occurring component of cannabis.

5. (Original). The process according to Claim 3, wherein the aryl of the at least one aryl sulfonyl halide is selected from the group consisting of benzene, alkyl substituted benzene, halogen substituted benzene, nitrobenzene, alkyloxy substituted benzene, substituted naphthyl compounds and unsubstituted naphthyl compounds.

6. (Original). The process according to Claim 3, wherein the at least one base is at least one tertiary amine.

7. (Original). The process according to Claim 6, wherein the at least one tertiary amine is represented by the formula R_5R_6NH , wherein R_5 and R_6 are alkyl groups.

8. (Original). The process according to Claim 3, further includes mixing the at least one cannabinoid, the at least one aryl sulfonyl halide and the at least one base in an organic solvent prior to the reacting of the at least one cannabinoid with the at least one aryl sulfonyl halide in the presence of the at least one base and further includes removing the organic solvent after the step of reacting the at least one cannabinoid with the at least one aryl sulfonyl halide in the presence of the at least one base.

9. (Original). The process according to Claim 8, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of toluene, methylene chloride, chloroform and heptane.

10. (Original). A process for the purification of a cannabinoid comprising:
 esterifying the cannabinoid with at least one aryl sulfonyl halide in the presence of at least one base to form a cannabinoid aryl sulfonate; and
 allowing the cannabinoid aryl sulfonate to crystallize.

11. (Original). The process according to Claim 10, wherein the allowing of the cannabinoid aryl sulfonate to crystallize further includes adding at least one solvent and at least one seed crystal.

12. (Original). The process according to Claim 11, wherein the at least one solvent is selected from the group consisting of methanol, heptane, hexane, t-butyl methyl ether, n-pentanol, n-butanol, isopropanol, isobutanol, ethanol, acetone, acetonitrile and isopropyl acetate.

13. (Original). The process according to Claim 10, further includes recrystallizing the cannabinoid aryl sulfonate to purify the cannabinoid aryl sulfonate.

14. (Original). The process according to Claim 10, wherein the cannabinoid is a naturally occurring component of cannabis.

15. (Original). The process according to Claim 10, wherein the aryl of the at least one aryl sulfonyl halide is selected from the group consisting of benzene, alkyl substituted benzene, halogen substituted benzene, nitrobenzene, alkyloxy substituted benzene, substituted naphthyl compounds and unsubstituted naphthyl compounds.

16. (Original). The process according to Claim 10, wherein the at least one base is at least one tertiary amine.

17. (Original). The process according to Claim 10, wherein the at least one tertiary amine is represented by the formula R_5R_6NH , wherein R_5 and R_6 are alkyl groups.

18. (Original). A process for the purification of a cannabinoid comprising:
esterifying the cannabinoid with at least one aryl sulfonyl halide in the presence of at least one base to form a cannabinoid aryl sulfonate;

allowing the cannabinoid aryl sulfonate to crystallize; and

hydrolyzing the cannabinoid aryl sulfonate to recover the cannabinoid.

19. (Original). The process according to Claim 18, further includes recrystallizing the cannabinoid aryl sulfonate to purify the cannabinoid aryl sulfonate.

20. (Original). The process according to Claim 18, wherein the cannabinoid is a naturally occurring component of cannabis.

21. (Original). The process according to Claim 18, wherein the aryl of the at least one aryl sulfonyl halide is selected from the group consisting of benzene, alkyl substituted benzene, halogen substituted benzene, nitrobenzene, alkyloxy substituted benzene, substituted naphthyl compounds and unsubstituted naphthyl compounds.

22. (Original). The process according to Claim 18, wherein the at least one base is at least one tertiary amine.

23. (Original). The process according to Claim 18, wherein the at least one tertiary amine is represented by the formula R_5R_6NH , wherein R_5 and R_6 are alkyl groups.